

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

STEVE WHEAT,
Plaintiff,

v.

WAL-MART ASSOCIATES, INC.,
Defendant.

Case No. 1:22-cv-01524-BAM

SCHEDULING CONFERENCE ORDER

Amendment
to Pleadings: June 1, 2023

Initial Disclosure: February 27, 2023

Expert Disclosure: February 23, 2024

Supplemental
Expert Disclosure: March 8, 2024

Non-expert
Discovery Cutoff: February 6, 2024

Expert
Discovery Cutoff: April 12, 2024

Pretrial Motion
Filing Deadline: April 30, 2024

Mid-Discovery
Status Conference: Date: July 20, 2023
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Dept: 8 (BAM)

Pretrial Conf.: Date: August 7, 2024
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Dept: 8 (BAM)

Jury Trial: Date: October 7, 2024
(7-10 days) Time: 8:30 a.m.
Dept.: 8 (BAM)

1 This Court held a Scheduling Conference on February 21, 2023. Counsel Rachael Sauer
2 appeared by Zoom video conference on behalf of Plaintiff Steve Wheat. Counsel Haidy Rivera
3 appeared by Zoom video conference on behalf of Defendant Wal-Mart Associates, Inc. Pursuant to
4 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(b), this Court sets a schedule for this action.

5 **1. Consent to the Magistrate Judge Jurisdiction**

6 Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c), the parties have consented to conduct all further proceedings
7 in this case, including trial, before the Honorable Barbara A. McAuliffe, U.S. Magistrate Judge.

8 **2. Amendment to the Parties' Pleadings**

9 All stipulated amendments or motions to amend shall be filed by **June 1, 2023**.

10 **3. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(1) Initial Disclosures**

11 Initial disclosures pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(1) shall be exchanged no
12 later than **February 27, 2023**.

13 **4. Discovery Cutoffs and Limits**

14 Initial expert witness disclosures by any party shall be served no later than **February 23, 2024**.
15 Supplemental expert witness disclosures by any party shall be served no later than **March 8, 2024**.
16 Such disclosures must be made pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2)(A) and (B) and
17 shall include all information required thereunder. In addition, Federal Rules of Civil Procedure
18 26(b)(4) and 26(e) shall specifically apply to all discovery relating to expert witnesses and their
19 opinions. Each expert witness must be prepared fully to be examined on all subjects and opinions
20 included in the designations. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in the imposition
21 of appropriate sanctions, which may include the preclusion of testimony or other evidence offered
22 through the expert witness. In particular, this Court will enforce preclusion of testimony or other
23 evidence if Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(e) is not strictly complied with.

24 All non-expert discovery, including motions to compel, shall be completed no later than
25 **February 6, 2024**. All expert discovery, including motions to compel, shall be completed no later
26 than **April 12, 2024**. Compliance with these discovery cutoffs requires motions to compel be filed and
27 heard sufficiently in advance of the cutoff so that the Court may grant effective relief within the
28 allotted discovery time. A parties' failure to have a discovery dispute heard sufficiently in advance of

1 the discovery cutoff may result in denial of the motion as untimely.

2 Counsel must comply with Local Rule 251 with respect to discovery disputes or the motion
3 will be denied without prejudice and dropped from calendar. In addition to filing a joint statement
4 electronically, a copy of the joint statement shall also be sent Judge McAuliffe's chambers by email to
5 bamorders@caed.uscourts.gov. Counsel for the parties are additionally required to conduct at least one
6 **telephonic or in person conference** as part of their obligations to meet and confer in good faith to
7 resolve their discovery dispute prior to seeking judicial intervention. The parties are further cautioned
8 that boilerplate objections to written discovery will be summarily denied.

9 Upon stipulation of the parties, Judge McAuliffe will resolve discovery disputes by informal
10 telephonic conference outside the formal procedures of the Local Rules and Federal Rules of Civil
11 Procedure governing noticed motions to compel. The procedures for requesting an informal
12 telephonic conference are set forth in Judge McAuliffe's Case Management Procedures located on the
13 Court's website, <http://www.caed.uscourts.gov>. If the parties stipulate to an informal ruling on a
14 discovery dispute that arises during a deposition, they may request an informal ruling during the
15 deposition by contacting Judge McAuliffe's Courtroom Deputy, Esther Valdez, by telephone at (559)
16 499-5788.

17 **5. Pretrial Motion Schedule**

18 All pre-trial motions, both dispositive and non-dispositive (except motions to compel,
19 addressed above), shall be served and filed on or before **April 30, 2024**. Motions are heard on Fridays
20 at 9:00 a.m., before the Honorable Barbara A. McAuliffe, United States Magistrate Judge, in
21 Courtroom 8. Before scheduling such motions, the parties shall comply with Local Rule 230 or Local
22 Rule 251.

23 The parties are advised that unless prior leave of the Court is obtained, all moving and
24 opposition briefs or legal memorandum in civil cases before Judge McAuliffe shall not exceed twenty-
25 five (25) pages. Reply briefs by the moving party shall not exceed ten (10) pages. These page
26 limitations do not include exhibits. Briefs that exceed this page limitation, or are sought to be filed
27 without leave, may not be considered by the Court.

28 Counsel or pro se parties may appear and argue motions before Judge McAuliffe by telephone
by dialing the court's teleconference line at (877) 411-9748 and entering access code 3219139, or my

Zoom video conference, provided they indicate their intent to appear remotely on their pleadings or by email to evaldez@caed.uscourts.gov at least one week prior to the hearing.

Motions for Summary Judgment or Summary Adjudication

Prior to filing a motion for summary judgment or motion for summary adjudication the parties are ORDERED to meet, in person or by telephone, and confer to discuss the issues to be raised in the motion.

The purpose of meeting shall be to: 1) avoid filing motions for summary judgment where a question of fact exists; 2) determine whether the respondent agrees that the motion has merit in whole or in part; 3) discuss whether issues can be resolved without the necessity of briefing; 4) narrow the issues for review by the court; 5) explore the possibility of settlement before the parties incur the expense of briefing a summary judgment motion; and 6) to arrive at a joint statement of undisputed facts.

The moving party shall initiate the meeting and provide a draft of the joint statement of undisputed facts. In addition to the requirements of Local Rule 260, the moving party shall file a joint statement of undisputed facts.

In the notice of motion, the moving party shall certify that the parties have met and conferred as ordered above and set forth a statement of good cause for the failure to meet and confer.

6. Mid-Discovery Status Conference

The Court sets a Mid-Discovery Status Conference for **July 20, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.** in Courtroom 8 (BAM) before Magistrate Judge Barbara A. McAuliffe. The parties shall file a Joint Status Report at least one (1) full week prior to the conference. The parties shall appear remotely at the conference with each party connecting either via Zoom video conference or Zoom telephone number. The parties shall be provided with the Zoom ID and password by the Courtroom Deputy prior to the conference. The Zoom ID number and password are confidential and are not to be shared. Appropriate court attire required.

7. Mandatory Settlement Conference

A Settlement Conference has not been scheduled. The parties are advised to contact the Court if they determine that a settlement conference would be beneficial. If a settlement conference is set, the parties also are advised that unless otherwise permitted in advance by the Court, the attorneys who

will try the case shall appear at the settlement conference with the parties and the person or persons having full authority to negotiate and settle the case, on any terms, at the conference.

8. Pretrial Conference

This Court sets a pretrial conference for **August 7, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.** in Courtroom 8 (BAM) before the Honorable Barbara A. McAuliffe, United States Magistrate Judge. The parties are directed to file a joint pretrial statement that complies with the requirements of this Court's Local Rule 281. In addition, the joint pretrial statement should include a brief factual summary and an agreed upon neutral statement of the case. An additional copy of the joint pretrial statement, carefully prepared and executed by all counsel, shall be electronically filed in CM/ECF and shall be e-mailed in Microsoft Word format to bamorders@caed.uscourts.gov.

The parties' attention is directed to this Court's Local Rules 281 and 282. The parties must identify all exhibits and witnesses, including those for rebuttal and/or impeachment purposes. No exhibit or witness other than those listed in the joint pretrial statement and included in the Pretrial Order may be used at trial. This Court will insist upon strict compliance with those rules.

At the pretrial conference, the Court will set deadlines, among others, to file motions in limine, final witness lists, exhibits, jury instructions, objections, and other trial documents.

9. Trial Date

A seven-to-ten-day jury trial is set for **October 7, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.** in Courtroom 8 before the Honorable Barbara A. McAuliffe, United States Magistrate Judge.

10. Effect of This Order

This order represents the best estimate of the court and counsel as to the agenda most suitable to dispose of this case. If the parties determine at any time that the schedule outlined in this order cannot be met, counsel are ordered to notify the court immediately of that fact so that adjustments may be made, either by stipulation or by subsequent status conference.

The dates set in this Order are considered to be firm and will not be modified absent a showing of good cause even if the request to modify is made by stipulation. Stipulations extending the deadlines contained herein will not be considered unless they are accompanied by

1 affidavits or declarations, and where appropriate, attached exhibits, which establish good cause
2 for granting the relief requested.

3 The failure to comply with this order shall result in the imposition of sanctions, including but
4 not limited to, dismissal of this action.

5
6 IT IS SO ORDERED.

7 Dated: February 21, 2023

/s/ Barbara A. McAuliffe
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE